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In re Application of:      )
                           )
      Akira Masumura      ) Group Art Unit:  1755
                           )
Serial No.:  09/872,842   ) Examiner: Sample, David R.
                           )
Filed:  June 1, 2001     )
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New York, NY 10036  
March 16, 2004

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

This Preliminary Amendment is being filed to amend the claims prior to examination. Kindly amend the claims as follows: